

Preliminary List of Issues to be Addressed in Docket No. 7081

1. What is the scope of VELCO's current transmission planning, and should it be modified?
2. Should VELCO be required to develop a least-cost integrated resource plan for bulk transmission needs? If so, who should be responsible for identifying, implementing, and funding the least-cost solution for meeting those needs?
3. Are additional planning tools needed to achieve the goal of meeting resource needs at the lowest societal cost?
4. Should regulatory or market mechanisms or standards be modified to promote the identification, development, and implementation of least-cost solutions?
5. What should the public's involvement be in the planning process for Vermont's bulk transmission system?
6. How can the interests of ratepayers be sufficiently protected in the development and implementation of a least-cost integrated resource plan for bulk transmission needs?
7. How should least-cost transmission planning reflect the financial impacts on Vermont ratepayers, Vermont utilities, and the Vermont economy of implementing and funding non-transmission solutions?
8. How should Vermont distribution utilities coordinate with VELCO and with each other in (i) developing and implementing least-cost solutions for meeting bulk transmission needs, and (ii) undertaking other planning activities, including the distribution utilities' least-cost integrated resource planning, distributed utility planning, and issuance of Act 250 "ability to serve" letters?
9. How, and to what extent, should VELCO and the distribution utilities coordinate with other providers of services, including the Energy Efficiency Utility and market providers, to promote delivery of least-cost solutions to bulk transmission needs? What standards of performance should apply to any entity that proposes to implement a market-based solution?
10. How, and to what extent, should VELCO and the distribution utilities coordinate with the Agency of Natural Resources and other permitting agencies to develop least-cost solutions to bulk transmission needs?
11. What barriers exist to the planning and implementation of least-cost solutions for bulk transmission needs? How can those barriers be overcome?
12. How should planning in Vermont for bulk transmission needs be integrated with (i) the NE-ISO's regional market and planning responsibilities and (ii) federal regulatory requirements (principally, FERC regulation and homeland security requirements)?
13. How should VELCO and the Vermont distribution utilities be developing their forecasts of need for purposes of determining the adequacy of bulk transmission facilities?
14. What should be the roles of the Public Service Board and the Department of Public Service in the development and implementation of a least-cost integrated resource plan for bulk transmission needs?
15. Should any new entities be created, or existing entities modified or relied upon, for the development and implementation of a least-cost integrated resource plan for bulk transmission needs?
16. How should we ensure that non-transmission alternatives are given *timely* consideration

in the identification of least-cost solutions? Conversely, at what point should consideration of non-transmission alternatives stop, and traditional, transmission solutions be implemented?

17. To what extent should planning for Vermont's bulk transmission system needs be integrated with planning efforts for the replacement of existing, significant power supply resources that are scheduled to expire over the next decade?

18. Does the Board need to revisit its decisions in Dockets 5980 and 6290?